

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a hard copy output engine comprising:

receiving an electronic message including hard copy output engine configuration data from an undesignated website through a firewall, wherein the electronic message transmitted through the firewall designates a hardcopy output engine to be configured; and

configuring the hard copy output engine using the hard copy output engine configuration data.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the electronic message comprises receiving an email at the hard copy output engine and wherein configuring comprises configuring the hard copy output engine via an embedded web server contained in the hard copy output engine using the hard copy output engine configuration data.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the electronic message comprises receiving an email.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the electronic message comprises:

receiving an email through the firewall at a first user station; and
forwarding the email to the hard copy output engine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the electronic message comprises receiving an XML script and configuring includes setting a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of: pigmentation material,

marking material, number of hours of operation and number of sheets of print media consumed.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration data include data prepared by:

- determining a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
- determining a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
- determining user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy output engine.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a device configured to provide a computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to:

- receive an electronic message including hard copy output engine configuration data from an undesignated website through a firewall; and
- configure the hard copy output engine using the configuration data,

wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to receive an email at the hard copy output engine, and wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to configure comprises a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine via an embedded web server contained in the hard copy output engine using the configuration data.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to receive an email through the firewall.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to:

receive an email through the firewall at a first user station; and
forward the email to the hard copy output engine.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine via the embedded web server to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of: pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and number of sheets of print media consumed.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to receive an XML script, and wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to

configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented control system for a hard copy output engine, the system comprising:

memory configured to store a software module; and

processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:

receive an electronic message including hard copy output engine configuration data from an undesignated website through a firewall; and
configure the hard copy output engine using the configuration data,
wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to receive an electronic message comprises processing circuitry configured to:

receive an email through the firewall at a first user station; and

forward the email to the hard copy output engine.

15. (Original) The computer implemented control system of claim 14, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to receive an electronic message comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to receive an email at the hard copy output engine, and wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to configure the hard copy output engine comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to configure the hard copy output engine via an embedded web server contained in the hard copy output engine.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented control system of claim 14, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to receive an electronic message comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to receive an email through the firewall.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The computer implemented control system of claim 14, wherein the processing circuitry configured to receive an electronic message

comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to receive an XML script.

19. (Original) The computer implemented control system of claim 14, wherein the hard copy output engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

20. (Original) The computer implemented control system of claim 14, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to configure the hard copy output engine comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to configure the hard copy output engine via the embedded web server to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of: pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and number of sheets of print media consumed.

21. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to cause a processor to:

receive an electronic message including hard copy output engine configuration data from a website through a firewall; and

configure the hard copy output engine using the configuration data, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to:

receive an email through the firewall at a first user station; and
forward the email to the hard copy output engine.

22. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to receive an email at the hard copy output engine, and wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine

includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine via an embedded web server contained in the hard copy output engine using the configuration data.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to receive an email through the firewall.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine via the embedded web server to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of: pigmentation material, number of hours of operation and number of sheets of print media consumed.

26. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to receive an electronic message includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to receive an XML script, and wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

27. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
forming hard copy output engine configuration data on a first side of a firewall based upon input received from a second side of the firewall; and
transmitting an electronic message including the configuration data through the firewall to a hard copy output engine on the second side of the firewall.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the electronic message comprises an email.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein transmitting the electronic message comprises:

transmitting the electronic message to a user station; and
forwarding the electronic message to the hard copy output engine.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising configuring the hard copy output engine using the configuration data.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising transmitting an electronic message including an address of the hard copy output engine from the second side of the firewall to the first side of the firewall.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the hard copy output engine configuration data designates a website on the first side of the firewall as a contact for the hard copy output engine, wherein the website was not previously designated to the hard copy output engine.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising providing the input from the second side of the firewall to the first side of the firewall.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of providing the input comprises interacting with a website on the first side of the firewall with a web browser on the second side of the firewall.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving the electronic message with a web server embedded in the hard copy output engine.